

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-11 COME-00 INT-05 GSA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W

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R 121906Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9814

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EPAP, ETRD, MY

SUBJECT: TIN -- MEETING WITH MALAYSIA ITC REP

REF: A) STATE 58413

B) KUALA LUMPUR 1381

1. US REP INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL INTERIM COMMITTEE HAD LONG CONVERSATION MARCH 11 WITH MALAYSIAN REP ABDUL FATAH BIN ZAKARIA (MALAYSIA HIGH COMMISSION, TRADE COMMISSIONER).

2. FATAH'S ARGUMENTS FOR LAI'S CANDIDACY WERE ALMOST PRECISELY THOSE STATED IN REF B. HE STRESSED (A) LAI'S CANDIDACY STOOD ON OWN AND WAS SEPARATE ISSUE FROM ADNAN/BUENO AFFAIR; AND (B) PRODUCERS (EXCEPT AUSTRALIA) SOLIDLY BEHIND LAI. RE (A), US REP REPLIED, ALONG LINES OF PARA 3, REF (A) THAT BE THAT AS IT MAY, REGRETABLELY LAI CANDIDACY HAD BECOME LINKED IN PEOPLE'S MINDS WITH THE SACKING ISSUE LAST SPRING AND THIS COULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES.

3. US REP EXPRESSED REGRET THAT EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN ISSUE HAD BECOME SO POLITICIZED AND SUGGESTED COOLING

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OFF PERIOD NEEDED WHILE THE CONTACT GROUP SEARCHED

FOR COMPROMISE.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH KUALA LUMPUR THAT GOM SEEMS TO HAVE SHIFTED POSITION ON SACKING OF ADNAN (FATAH SAID, "THAT IS A SEPARATE ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN SETTLED"). NEW TACTIC IS CERTAINLY A MORE REASONED APPROACH BUT WILL NOT SOUND TOO CONVINCING TO DELEGATES HERE IN LONDON.

ARMSTRONG

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